DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ALL ITS KINDRED ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own.—JOHNSON.

VOL. II. SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1850. NO. 17.

S. W. COLE, EDITOR. QUINCY HALL, BOSTON. J. NOURSE, PROPRIETOR.

THE CURCULIO.

THIS formidable insect has done immense damage this season, by stinging plums and other fruits. In some sections nearly all the plums have been destroyed by it. We have often recommended the use of salt as a remedy. It is not an infallible remedy or prevention, but it is usually a protection, and when it does not prevent the evil it lessens it.

A cultivator remarked to us, some years ago, that a plum-tree of good growth had borne no fruit, though it blossomed full every spring. We advised him to apply salt early in the spring, which he did for several years, and he had good crops of fruit. Recently he neglected to salt the tree, and the fruit failed.

Dr. S. A. Shurtleff has used salt around his plum-trees for many years with good success, both in preventing the operations of the curculio, and the black wart; and his valuable communications on this subject, which we published some years ago, have been very instructive to others.

A short time ago we were on the farm of Mr. Moses Jones, of Brookline, under whose skilful management almost every spot of earth and every fruit-tree yields well; and observing that his plum-trees were bending beneath their heavy and growing load of fruit, we inquired how he prevented the depredations of the curculio. He said that he jarred the trees morning and evening, and let the curculios go as they fell from the trees, and they flew away and returned not, as he supposed. His plan was remarkably successful, but as it is difficult to recognize these little insects, it would not be easy to determine whether his neighbors suffered from his driving, instead of killing the insects, from his trees. So a doubtful moral question is involved in this mode.

Mr. John Day, of Boxford, informs us that for some years his plum-trees, mostly the Green Gage, did not produce fruit, though they blossomed fully. This season he applied a small portion of salt to them in March, and in May, he applied more; and as he had several trees of the same kind, he thought that he would "kill or cure" in one case. So he spread around one tree, as far as the branches extended, a peck of salt, nearly covering the ground. The tree is three or four inches in diameter; it is so full of fruit that he finds it necessary to thin it. Other trees were salted less, and they have less fruit on them. Some of the fruit on this tree, which is a Green Gage, has been stung, but the operations of the curculio were abortive, as there have been no worms in the fruit.

The fruit might become impregnated with salt, so as to prevent the hatching of the egg, or the development of the young; or the curculio, on stinging the plum with its proboscis, might find the plum too briny for a nidus for its young. Without any regard to our suggestions, the facts communicated by Mr. Day favor the opinion of many that the prevention by salt is by its imparting a slight saline taste to the fruit, readily perceived by the insect, rather than by destroying the insect in the ground.

THE SEASON AND THE CROPS.

THE WEATHER.—May was a cold, wet month, and the spring was one of the most backward ever known. Fine weather commenced about the first of June, and since that time it has been very favorable for vegetation. It has generally been warm, and we have had a good proportion of rainy and fair weather. There has been no drought, and only once have there been symptoms of it; and even then the busy farmer wished for more sunshine that he might make hay.

THE CROPS have generally been good, or are promising. An abundant harvest will crown the labors of the skilful and industrious husbandman.

Hay.—This crop is one of the largest ever raised in New England. But farmers should be cautious, and not count too much upon it, and prepare to winter too much stock. Large hay crops do not spend well, and early in the season the grass was cut immediately after several weeks mostly of dull weather, and the hay, as well as the strawberries that ripened at that time, lacks substance and flavor. Old hay is mostly consumed throughout the country; and owing to several fine seasons for grass, there is a great deal

of stock in the land, and should it be low, an attempt will be made to winter an unusual amount; and should we have a long, cold winter, some will find that early in spring their cattle are not worth the value of the hay that they have consumed.

Rye is good, but a part of the crop has suffered from the unfavorable weather at harvest.

Wheat. — It is too early to determine how far this crop will be affected by the great evils, rust and the grain worm.

Indian Corn is rather backward, but it is growing luxuriantly, and gaining rapidly upon the season.

Potatoes have had a fine season, and they are making a good growth. From the last of June to the present time, August 8, we have had frequent rains, and generally warm, muggy weather, just the kind that predisposes potatoes to rot, and in many cases they are becoming affected, in some localities, to a considerable extent. Bright weather, like the present day, may check it. Though we do not consider warm, wet weather the primary cause of potato rot, yet we regard it as one of the principal predisposing or secondary causes, and one which is indispensable to its production.

Fruit. — Small fruits, such as strawberries, gooseberries, currants, raspberries, whortleberries, and blackberries, have been abundant, and this market has been well supplied with them for two months. They are delicious and wholesome, and fill an important place between the late apples and the early apples, pears, peaches, plums, and grapes. Owing to the cold, wet weather in May, the crop of cherries was very light. There is a fair prospect for a middling crop of plums. Pears vary from empty trees to those that are breaking down under their loads, where the negligent cultivator has omitted to thin the fruit. See Mr. Ives's communication, showing that while the cold, wet weather totally destroyed all prospect of a crop from some varieties, others wholly escaped. The prospect for pears is generally pretty fair. The Bartlett, the leading pear in this section, is rather thin, which led some to suppose that it would be large and fine, but there is a blast upon it in many places, giving it a rusty appearance. There is a prospect of the largest peach crop ever raised in New England. Some cultivators have expended much time in thinning their fruit. The apple is the most important fruit, as we obtain large crops with little expense, and it is in use nearly the whole year, both for the kitchen and for the dessert. Apple-trees blossomed full, and there was a prospect of one of the greatest of crops; but in warm situations in this region, and generally farther south, the blowth was before the cold, wet weather had passed, which caused great injury. But on high lands, and farther north, the trees did not blossom until we had pleasant weather, and excepting partial injury from the pelting of heavy storms, the season is favorable, and as is usual in *even* years, we shall have a good, though not very great crop of apples.

Farmers, as well as all others, have abundant reasons for gratitude to Him who giveth rain and sunshine, seedtime and harvest; and while we eat the fruits, may we remember whence every good and perfect gift cometh.

SOWING GRASS SEED — IMPROVEMENT OF GRASS LANDS.

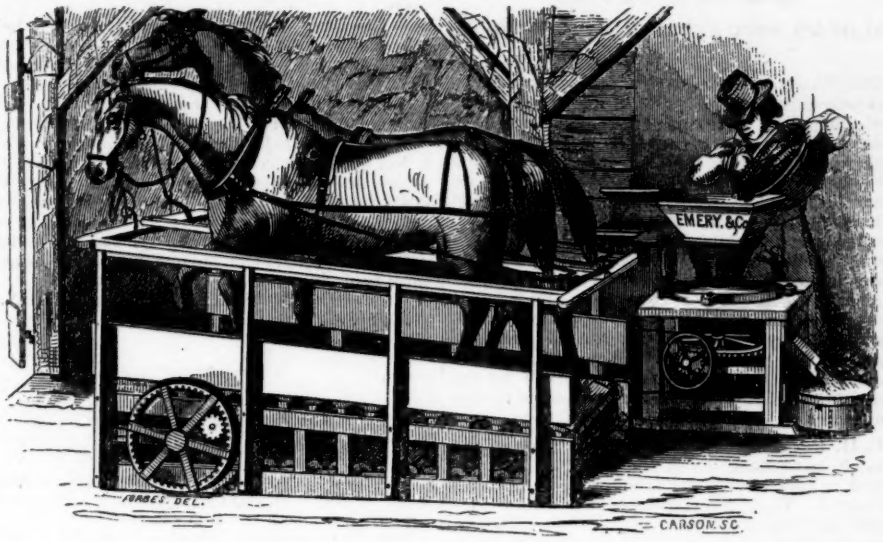
August is a very favorable season for sowing grass seed, especially when it is wet. It will answer to sow very early in September, but the sooner it is sown after the 1st of that month, the better. Omit the clover seed until March, as it is liable to winter-kill when sown late in summer or in fall.

Grass lands that need renovation, and are too wet for tillage, may be improved by ploughing, thoroughly inverting the sod, and laying it over smooth and even; then manure the land well, and harrow thoroughly, first lengthwise, then obliquely, so as not to turn up the sod. When finely and deeply pulverized, and the surface made level, sow grass seed, and then use a very light harrow or brush harrow.

If grass lands are smooth and level, and free from coarse, wild grass, weeds, bushes, &c., they may be improved by a good top-dressing, without ploughing. In some cases lands have been kept in high condition in this way for twenty years, at small expense, and the crops have been large. Under this management, good grass land will furnish means not only for its own renovation, but a still larger amount of manure for the improvement of other lands.

WATERING LANDS.

A loamy soil, that is much watered, soon becomes hard, the surface is glazed, rendered in a great measure impenetrable to the air, and consequently it is no longer capable of affording, in dry weather, the necessary nourishment to the plant. The sources of its fertility are obstructed. This may be better understood by some of our readers, when we state on the authority of Sir Humphry Davy, that a soil in the greatest degree absorbent, exposed to the atmosphere till it becomes dry to the touch, still contains moisture equal to one eighth part of its whole weight. This is discovered by subjecting it to a heat indicated by 300° of Fahrenheit's thermometer. Now, all water not chemically combined, but only "adhering to parts of the soil, is in constant use in vegetation," and the one eighth part referred to is of this kind. If we estimate common fertile soils, however, as containing only one twelfth part, then in four hundred pounds of soil, even when it is dry to the touch, we shall have thirty-three pounds of water in store for the use of vegetation; and it is particularly worthy of notice, that such soils, when deprived of a portion of this by plants, procure a fresh supply by constantly absorbing water from the atmosphere, where it exists in the state of vapor. In effect, a good soil is a perpetual fountain, even in dry weather. From these statements it must be evident that unless the ground is frequently cultivated, and kept mellow, so that between its particles the air can pass in, the latter cannot impart the moisture which it holds in solution; but when the soil is frequently broken, minutely divided, and prevented from conglomerating, it will acquire and retain moisture. — *Selected.*



NEW HORSE POWER AND GRIST-MILL.

This cut represents a new railroad horse power, on the plan of the endless chain, with a mill attached for grinding grain. It is got up by Messrs. Emery & Co., of the Albany Agricultural Warehouse. The horse power combines the best advantages of the endless chain principle for economy, durability, convenience, and for the ease, safety, and comfort of the laboring animals. The gearing is such that the friction is slight, and the machine substantial.

A good horse power affords numerous opportunities for substituting animal for manual labor; which is of great importance, as the former is far cheaper than the latter. The labor of a horse generally costs less per day than that of a man, and yet the horse, in labor adapted to his condition, will do six times as much as a man. A machine constructed like this which we have figured, is not liable to disorder, and its wear is so slight that the expense for repairs is but trifling.

The mill attached is allowed to be of the best construction, and it operates with efficiency and despatch when driven by this power. The price is moderate, and the whole construction durable, excepting the grinding plates, and a new set costs only $2.

ON FATTENING CATTLE AND SWINE.

The committee appointed to report on the best method of fattening cattle and swine would offer the following as their views on the subject. (The present year there has been no application for premium.)

Select the best formed cattle, from five to eight years old, of quiet disposition, and good appetite, inclining to fatten. After the spring work is over, commence giving them the best pasturage during the summer, also the best fall feed until they come to the barn; then feed them with good hay and Indian meal, at first from one to two quarts per day, gradually increasing till six or eight quarts are given, until they are slaughtered, or about fifteen bushels of meal to each animal. This process furnishes the largest weight, the best quality of beef, commanding the highest price in the market, and at the present prices, a profit to the owner.

Also, with respect to fattening swine, — select those weighing about one hundred pounds, which will cost about $5 each, purchasing corn at the common rates. Keep them in a large, roomy yard, with a good supply of loam from the road-side, and muck from the swamp, giving them a dry room to lodge in. Feed them with three quarts of corn per day for one year. This will give four hundred pounds of good pork, which has usually paid for all the corn and the first cost of the animal; and what is taken from the yard will pay well for all the labor which has been expended. For the committee.

JEREMIAH COLMAN.

Newburyport, *Nov.* 9, 1849.

— *Trans. Essex Ag. Soc.*

THE POTATO FLY.

The potato crops are suffering severely from the ravages of the "potato fly" — some patches, our own among the number, are almost stripped of their leaves. We do not know what effect this will have upon the young potatoes, as we are wholly unacquainted with the fly, not having, to our knowledge, ever seen any thing of the kind. Can some one enlighten us on the subject? Will some one skilled in agricultural matters point out the best mode of exterminating the insect? — *Decatur* (*Ind.*) *Gazette.*

Our readers will find an account of the potato fly in our paper of August 1, 1849. We know of no effectual remedy for the evil. The only way is to let it "bide its time;" it will probably disappear in a few years, as it has done in other places; and it is not often that the injury is very extensive or severe. We saw several patches of potatoes partially stripped of leaves by this insect in Northern Ohio the past month. — *Ohio Cultivator.*

For the New England Farmer.

PALMER'S IMPORTATION OF SHANGHAE FOWLS.

MR. COLE: As much has been said in your excellent journal, and elsewhere, respecting the Shanghae fowls, imported a few years since by Capt. A. S. Palmer, for the Hon. Nathan F. Dixon, and also with regard to Mr. Dixon's present stock, that has not always been in accordance with the truth, I have deemed it important to place before your readers, and especially amateur fowl-breeders, a few facts, to correct the erroneous statements, false insinuations, and wrong impressions, that have come forth from your journal, to say nothing of any other.

After the publication of the articles alluded to, I addressed a note to the Hon. Mr. Dixon, calling his attention to those articles, and making inquiry with regard to the purity of his present stock, &c., &c. The following letter is his reply, and will set the matter in a clear light, and we trust supersede further conjecture: —

C. H. PENDLETON, ESQ. Dear Sir: Yours of the 26th ult. has been received, and it should have received an earlier reply, but other engagements have prevented. You call my attention to several articles which have appeared in the New England Farmer, upon Shanghae fowls, of which you have given me extracts. All I can say of them is, that those persons who have spoken of my fowls, have been very careless in the collection of their facts. Capt. Alex. S. Palmer brought me from China (I think in the spring of 1845) three cocks and three hens, which he procured and selected himself in Shanghae; and from these fowls selected and brought by Capt. Palmer I have bred.

I have kept them entirely pure, and where there was no possibility of their mixing with other fowls. The fowls which I gave you were the direct descendants from those which Capt. Palmer procured in Shanghae; they are the pure blood of that stock. The plumage of those I received was from very light to very dark red, no one of them white. Many of the chickens from that original stock, however, were white, and they were of all colors, from white to very dark red. I always bred from those of the same color with the original stock.

From the first year I received them, I have always kept twelve hens and a cock by themselves, from which I have bred, and (as you know) in a place where they could not mix with other fowls. The eggs and the chickens from that pure stock I have given to my friends all over the country.

Whether they are the best and purest of Shanghae fowls I know not, and care not; but they came from Shanghae, and were selected with great care, and those presented by me to you were their pure descendants. Yours respectfully,

NATHAN F. DIXON.

WASHINGTON, *July* 12, 1850.

The information contained in Mr. D.'s letter is corroborated by the statement of Capt. Alex. S. Palmer, who informs me, that in 1845 he visited the port of Shanghae, and was particularly struck with the uncommon size of these fowls. He immediately determined to procure some for his friend Mr. Dixon, who, on leaving the United States, requested him to bring him something in the shape of live stock. He accordingly put on board two large coops of fowls, but succeeded in bringing home only eight fowls, the rest having died on their passage. The fowls, Capt. P. informs me, were not the "remnant of store fowls put on board his ship," as Mr. Morse incorrectly infers, or was informed, but were selected with great care, and imported *expressly* for the Hon. Mr. Dixon. None of those fowls, however, were of white plumage.

It was stated in one communication in your journal, that they ate fowls on board of Capt. Palmer's vessel, that weighed eleven pounds dressed. These, the captain informs me, were capons.

Thus much for Capt. Palmer's importation. In a future number I may say something with regard to the merits of Mr. Dixon's stock of Shanghae fowls. I will only add in conclusion, that the Hon. Mr. Dixon, to my knowledge, has kept his Shanghae fowls, from which he breeds, in a place where they could not come in contact with other fowls; and with his characteristic generosity, has gratuitously presented the eggs and fowls of his pure Shanghae stock to his friends all over the country.

CHARLES H. PENDLETON.

PENDLETON HILL, CT., *July* 23, 1850.

For the New England Farmer.

"FARMERS' CLUBS."

MR. COLE: "The plan of creating public sentiment by means of popular assemblies seems to be the only one which promises success."

The above borrowed language is worthy of many illustrations. Virtuous principles and moral acts have accomplished much in the world's prosperity, and wherever virtue has strewed her seed, there the slow, steady progress of success has brought forth a rich harvest. Recall to mind any act in the annals of prosperity, retrace its history from its origin, and it will be seen that popularity and virtue has wrought in that its lovely masterpiece.

It is not our object at this time to portray a brief outline of historical events which virtue has accomplished. We wish to call the attention of your readers once more to a subject that may be found on the 45th page of the present volume of your valuable paper. We there gave our opinion, in a limited manner, on the vast importance of forming "conversational meetings," or "farmers' clubs."

The merchant, the mechanic, and almost every grade or class of profession have their associations; but the farmer, that most useful and important of all other temporal employments, upon the fruits of whose labors the world subsists — his associations, like others, are limited. What class of men is there whose energies should be more combined, more harmonized, and more universally diffused, than the hardy sons "who till the soil"? This work was given to mankind by nature; it was man's first employment upon earth, and has been pursued with eager intensity ever since the days of our father Adam. It is, then, a merited vocation, and should and must be sustained with universal magnanimity. Unlike many other vocations, the farmer's work has yet never attained unto perfection. His work is slowly and steadily progressing, gradually ascending, but has never reached the summit. Much has been done, and much is doing, to promote agriculture; but there is yet room for much more to be done before this work is brought to perfection. Can perfection in agriculture be attained? is an unsettled question. Whether it can be done or not, there is much advocated by agriculturists that would tend to accomplish this great end.

We have said, by way of comparison, that the farmer's associations are limited, or, in other words, "few and far between." This should not be. The topic for remark which here presents itself is very extensive, and were it not for the fear of trespassing upon the reader's patience, and the want of space, we would feebly attempt to elucidate some essential

points; but we forbear. Suffice it to say, that the farmer's residence is away from the din or noise of the merchant and mechanic; his residence is remote from country villages, where there is nothing to molest or disturb the quietude of nature. In these beautiful localities there is generally a district schoolhouse. In what better way can farmers spend the long winter evenings than by meeting together in these little classic halls, to discourse topics which belong to their vocation? If this plan were generally adopted in all farming communities, much might be done in promoting the cause of agriculture; and we predict that by such means much more would be accomplished, and at far less expense, than what an agricultural school could accomplish; because in the one case, long, protracted experience will be given; while in the other, theories are to be taught, and results waited for, which, after all, will be theory more than practice; while in the former plan we not only have theory, but actual experience, from youth up to threescore years and ten. We believe the plan here introduced of forming "farmers' clubs," would be considered a sort of recreation, which would thus make such a society in every respect agreeable and pleasant.

Some years since, an agricultural society was formed in a neighboring town, and farmers in this section were earnestly entreated to join or meet with them, and some did become members; but they soon gave up their organization, and for what reasons? We know of none other than this, that the officers then and there chosen to preside over an assembly of stout, hardy, robust "sons of the soil," were men who were almost entirely ignorant of the science of agriculture; men whose employment has ever or principally been in the mechanic's shop, or in the merchant's storehouse. Is it any wonder that they should give up their organization, based upon such irregularities? It is an old saying, "Have a place for every thing, and every thing in its place;" but in this case it appears that things were greatly out of place.

Now, if societies of this kind were formed in all farming communities, and a full and accurate report made of their proceedings through the medium of some agricultural journal, much benefit might be derived; and we think that both old and young would take pleasure in meeting for public discussion. Perhaps it may be thought by some, that they are not capable of engaging in such an enterprise, because of their inabilities; but every person is capable of expressing an idea, and in societies like this, if formed among persons possessing ordinary faculties and means, (but farmers are generally an intelligent people,) it will not be expected that its members would express themselves in such logical or grammatical sense as would learned or literary men. It has been admitted by intelligent people that there is occasionally some impropriety existing between some speakers and their hearers concerning the power or abilities of one or the other. For want of space we must here break the thread of our subject and close this epistle. Perhaps the reader will treat it like an "idle tale that's told," or consider its contents "as void and empty as the wind that blows;" but we know that great benefit has been derived from agricultural societies, or "farmers' clubs;" and what we advocate is, that a more general diffusion of agricultural knowledge might be established.

Yours, &c., D. W. J.

WINCHESTER, *August* 2, 1850.

There were manufactured in Rockland, Maine, formerly East Thomaston, the last year, nearly 700,000 casks of lime.

For the New England Farmer.

PEARS AND PLUMS.

MR. COLE: In accordance with your request, I have drawn up hastily a few of those varieties of pears which were *not* swept off by the unprecedented blight which appeared upon the blossoms on the eve of their setting fruit. I will name them in proportion to the quantity of fruit set.

Bartlett, Golden Beurre of Bilboa, Buffum, Urbaniste, Lewis, Andrews, Thompson, Long Green, and Hacon's Incomparable. The following have scarcely set a specimen: Belle of Flanders or Flemish Beauty, Dearborn's Seedling, Belle Lucrative, Beurre d'Aremberg, Aston Town, Fulton, Harvard, Duchesse d'Angouleme, Van Mons, Leon le Clerc, Bloodgood, (this last I cannot find a specimen on any tree.) The Bezi de la Motte, *on quince root*, fruits well this season.

Our plum-trees, this season generally, are covered with the wart. It is still one of the, if not *the* most difficult subject to account for this ugly and pernicious excrescence. I have for three years past conjectured that it was owing to a want of congeniality of soil, particularly as Mr. Lackey, of Marblehead, whose trees have been free from it, grows them on very strong, retentive, and clayey soil. A gentleman from South Andover, who has been a successful grower of this fruit, and whose soil is of the above description, has this pest upon his trees for the first time. It has been said by some one, I think it was Dr. Harris, that the curculio will sting the branches. This insect, in its worm state, is found this season in these knots *while in a green state*, and it may be possible, as the plum set its fruit this season later than usual, that the fly, not finding its accustomed place to deposit its egg, *may have* perforated the bark, and there ejected it. I trust our many cultivators will investigate this subject, for if this scourge should continue for a few years, we must relinquish the cultivation of the numerous fine varieties of this delicious fruit. The *only* variety in my garden that is entirely exempt from the knots this season, is Sharp's Emperor, which is in a half-shady situation.

Yours truly, in haste,

I. M. IVES.

SALEM, *July* 24, 1850.

For the New England Farmer.

VARIETIES OF CURRANTS.

MR. EDITOR: I send you a few specimens of currants under cultivation, together with such facts in regard to their culture as have come under my observation.

The 1st specimen is the Morgan currant, and supposed by some persons to be the same with the Dutch currant. But I think it quite distinct, and it is characterized by its long pendent fruit stems, and trailing habit of the branches. It is a fine currant, of a strong and healthy growth.

No. 2 is the Champagne; and with me this variety is not a great bearer. Its fruit, as you will perceive, is very beautiful, and very acid, and probably is more valuable for wine than the dessert. Most persons pass it by in the garden, and leave it to be eaten by birds.

No. 3 is a production of the great English pomologist, Mr. Knight, and is distinguished for its large dark-colored berry, growing in clusters around the stems of the plant. It is a fine currant. Mr. Knight's Early Red currant we have found to be not much earlier than the other varieties. We should

not think of cultivating it for this characteristic, and it possesses no other.

The Victoria currant is with me, as with most persons who have cultivated it, a very large, good currant, but not so early as some other varieties. The White and Red Dutch are good, and by some persons thought to be the best. Mr. Knight's Sweet Red may perhaps by some persons be considered a little less acid than the White Dutch, while others would not admit it. I should not cultivate it for its supposed comparative sweetness. The black currant, marked No. 1, is Ogden's Black Grape, a very fine medicinal currant, indeed. Those I send you are not as large as usual, in consequence of the bushes not being sufficiently pruned. No. 2 is the Black Naples, and by those who like the flavor of a black currant, would be preferred to the Black Grape, but is probably not so good for medicinal purposes. No. 3 is the new Missouri Hack currant, and when its fruit is ripe is pleasant to the taste. This currant is not to be confounded with the Yellow flowering ornamental Missouri currant common in gardens, which it much resembles.

We have several other varieties under cultivation, some as yet not sufficiently tested as to their value for general culture, and others, we think, will prove to be more ornamental than useful. I would remark, in closing this communication, that the Houghton gooseberry is deservedly becoming a great favorite, and I think we shall find it to succeed best when set on the north side of a wall or fence, thus affording it protection from the rays of the noonday sun.

Yours, &c., S. P. FOWLER.

Danvers New Mills, *Aug.* 1, 1850.

Remarks. — We are much obliged to Dea. Fowler for his valuable present of specimens. His accurate experiments and nice observations give importance to his opinions. The Morgan currant appears very much like Cushing's Seedling, which we cultivate. The latter bears more profusely than the Large Red Dutch, but the berries are not quite so large. We have not yet fairly tested it, as this is the first season that it has borne with us. — Ed.

For the New England Farmer.

RECLAMATION OF SWAMP LAND.

Mr. Editor: Having become a subscriber of your paper, I wish to inquire how to reclaim an old swamp, which in the days of my fathers was covered with pine, cedar, ash, and other timber common to the country. In ditching and digging for muck, I find decayed flags and other vegetables to the depth of from two to six feet. It is covered with brakes and wild grass, that are hardly worth mowing. I wish to know how deep it is necessary to drain, &c. Also, some remarks on the management of bees would be acceptable. Yours, &c.,

S. J. GILBERT.

Brownington, Vt., *July* 27.

Remarks. — In most cases there is a stream of water through the swamp; this should be deepened for a main drain. The depth of this drain should depend on various circumstances. We have noticed some cases in which it was necessary to cut the drain five or six feet deep at the lower part of the swamp, or where the water passed off, in order to have a sufficient drainage. In other cases a few feet in depth are sufficient. In some swamps there is but little descent at the surface, and a moderate fall must be obtained in the main passage for water.

After opening the principal drain, cut drains around at the margin of the swamp to receive the water from the high lands. If the swamp is small, these drains, with a few to carry the water directly from the marginal to the main drain, will be sufficient. If it is a large swamp, it will be necessary to make drains about three or four rods apart, and they should run through springy places, if such there are.

When the land is well drained, the bushes, old logs, stumps, &c., should be cleared up and burned, and the ashes scattered. When the land has become dry, plough it; if too wet to plough, dig up and burn the hassocks, brambles, weeds, &c. Whether ploughed or not, haul on a few inches of gravel, sand, or loam. Add a good dressing of manure, harrow well, and sow to herdsgrass and redtop the last of August or first of September. If you would have clover, omit sowing it till the next March. If the land is too wet to haul on gravel in the summer or fall, attend to this in winter, when the ground is frozen.

If the mud is only two or three feet deep, it is better to sink the drains into the hard earth, as this will give a much better drainage; but if the mud is very deep, the drains should be made a good depth, as the water will drain off slowly through a mud or peat soil, and the soft soil, that has almost floated on the water, will settle much after it is drained off.

SEEDLING CHERRIES.

If we could raise some of the best varieties of cherries from seed, without budding or grafting, as we do many kinds of peaches, we should accomplish an important object, both in getting more hardy trees and saving the labor and risk of budding and grafting; which processes are more liable to fail in the cherry than in other varieties of fruit, particularly that of budding. — *N. E. Farmer.*

If our friend Cole could visit our grounds at this time, he would see that the important object which he suggests can be accomplished to a considerable extent. A very large per cent. of seedlings raised from the pits of the Bigarreau of Downing have proved to be equal in quality to our most popular varieties. In most instances they seem to be hybrids between the Bigarreau and Black Tartarean, though generally inclining towards the former. Their periods of ripening are equally various, extending through the whole cherry season. None have ripened quite as early as the Purple Guigne; the Doctor comes in with the early white-heart.

Most of them have improved from year to year, as the trees have advanced in age and size. A few have run back to the diminutive mazard.

In order that they may have a full investigation, and that none be introduced prematurely to the public, we have invited several of our best pomologists to scrutinize them, and in due time descriptions and reports will doubtless be made. We shall in no instance put forward any of the varieties, but leave it for the work of disinterested persons.

We have some thirty or forty varieties in fruit at this time, which, so far as we can judge, will range as

high as the American Heart. Several are equal to any known kinds.

There is no obstacle to stocking not only the gardens, orchards, and waste grounds, but even the public highways in dry, sandy, or gravelly locations, with profusion of the finest of cherries. Against our own lands we have set a row as far as the highways extend. They may tempt boys, but we choose to have the youngsters enjoy a good treat of fruits. — *Family Visitor.*

PROCURING WATER BY THE USE OF THE SIPHON.

Friend Bateham: Many farmers experiencing much inconvenience in consequence of a deficiency of water for their stock, or its situation being remote from the barn-yard, I herewith, for the benefit of the readers of the Cultivator, send a description of a watering place I have recently constructed.

My farm not being supplied with constantly running water, and it being very difficult to obtain by digging, I have turned the water from off my barn into a well near by, which affords but a small supply of water, and by means of a siphon about three hundred feet long, the water is conducted into a trough the same distance from the barn. The well is near twenty feet deep, and the end of the pipe, where the water is discharged, two or three feet lower than the bottom of the well. For the purpose of putting the siphon into operation, a small pump is attached to the discharging end, by which means the air is exhausted, and the water will continue to flow for several months, when perhaps air will accumulate at the summit, and the pump again be required.

To insure success, much care should be taken, in laying the pipe, to prevent undulations or sudden curves, else air may accumulate in the pipe, and the water eventually cease running.

To prevent a waste of water when the supply is not copious, a valve is fitted to the discharging end of the pipe, to which is attached one prong of what might be termed a forked lever, (eighteen inches long,) while the other is fastened, by means of a hinge, to the end of the trough, immediately below the valve; to the other end of the lever is attached a float, resting on the water in the trough, (a white lead keg answering a good purpose.) When the water is exhausted in the trough, the float is lowered, by which means the valve is opened and the water commences running, and when the trough is by this means again filled, the float is raised, and the valve again closed; thus acting as a self-regulator.

To prevent freezing in winter, a partition is placed near one end of the trough, with a small aperture at the bottom to admit the water to freely pass, and the end containing the regulator embanked around by earth, and securely covered.

From various experiments, I have ascertained that by means of a siphon, water may be raised from twenty-five to twenty-eight feet; although theory demonstrates the atmosphere as being capable of elevating it near thirty-four, yet, in practice, it is found that the above distance is the greatest elevation attainable by ordinary means.

A pipe of one half inch calibre answers a good purpose. My siphon has now been in operation about four months, and I think it will continue to operate as long as the water is sufficient. Any information, of which I am in possession, will be freely communicated, by letter or otherwise.

DAVID FAWCETT.

Salem, Columbiana Co., 2*d mo.* 28*th*, 1850.

Remarks. — We have deferred the publication of the foregoing communication for several months, with the expectation of procuring a drawing and engraving of the very ingenious apparatus it describes; but finding some difficulty in obtaining these, we give the description alone, as it is very clearly stated, and, we believe, will be readily understood by all who are sufficiently familiar with the principles on which it operates, to be likely to desire any thing of the kind. And, indeed, there are not many persons who have a well so situated that water can be drawn from it by a siphon, as it requires the surface of the ground at the discharging end of the pipe to be lower than the water in the well. See the operation of the siphon explained in our last year's volume, page 103, where reference was made by inquiry in regard to the foregoing case, but the amount of fall was not correctly stated in the letter of inquiry. — *Ohio Cultivator.*

ON COLTS.

The committee on colts, having attended to their duty, report: —

Twenty-four colts were entered for premium, from one to four years old. Some were not in the pens, and others had no attendants to show them, or give any account of their training or pedigree.

As there were but four premiums to be distributed, one to the best colt of each class respectively, they recommend the following award, viz.: —

For the best four years old colt, to Rufus Pray, of Newbury, $10.

For the best three years old do., to Baily Loring, of Andover, $8.

For the best two years old do., to Nathaniel Boardman, of Danvers, $6.

For the best yearling colt, to Samuel Tucker, of Hamilton, $4.

We cannot leave the interesting subject of the horse, without a word or two upon the importance of this animal to the public; of encouraging the raising of the best kind, and the best mode of training.

Of all our domestic animals, the horse stands in the foremost rank. Although steam and railroads have lessened the necessity of his aid, they have not lessened his value in the market, or the pleasure which he still affords to those not so much bent on business and gold, as amusement and healthy exercise.

The labors of the horse seem to be changing from year to year, and have in some degree been mitigated. If we look back but a few years, we find him travelling the bark-mill from morning till night; and before the invention of steam engines and railroads, he was destined to perform the very arduous labors of the stage-coach, in the duties of which, from high feeding and hard driving, he was soon worn out. But the modern application of steam seems to be sent in mercy for his relief. If steam has not entirely superseded the use of the horse for the work, it has certainly very much curtailed the requirement of this kind of labor. He is now mostly used for pleasure riding, and short excursions, requiring the cultivation of different features and qualities than those heretofore demanded. Speed and activity are the qualities sought for now, in place of strength of body and limb, which are better fitted for the draft.

The horse is susceptible of the most perfect training, and can be made to know your wishes almost before they are expressed, and possessing great activity and strength, when properly encouraged, will use them to the utmost of his power. The attachment of the horse to his master is well known, and a reciprocity of feeling between the horse and his keeper

is frequently very great; but we are sorry to know he is sometimes most grossly and wantonly abused.

The horse, though, when kindly treated, he will manifest great attachment and perfect obedience, submitting to severe labors, will sometimes exhibit great and provoking obstinacy. This leads to cruelty, and sometimes unmerciful beating.

From experience and observation, we are fully satisfied that whipping only increases the difficulty, and makes him more obstinate. Although it is somewhat difficult to command one's temper, when the horse, knowing your wishes, persists in refusing to obey, still I am satisfied that kindness will sooner bring him to obedience than an opposite course of treatment.

When in full health and plight, he will be as fond of moving forward as you are to have him do so. A little patience is much better than the whip. We once asked a horse-dealer how we should manage a contrary horse. He replied, "Never let him know but that he behaves just as you want to have him."

Horses are often made vicious in breaking, as it is called, and in training, when young, by bad management. In breaking colts into the harness, they should never know that they can break away. When convenient, the younger you begin with them the better. Accustom them gradually to the halter and harness.

The halter, in the first place, should be so strong that they cannot break it when made fast to a substantial post. They will seldom try its strength more than once or twice; and the same with any part of a harness. If they find they can break a halter, it is seldom forgotten, and becomes a very vicious habit. After two years old, they may be placed by the side of a steady horse, and afterwards in a light carriage, followed up every day for some little length of time.

In shoeing the first time, be sure you get a good, strong smith, that will hold the foot as long as he wishes; not too long at first, lest he should be weary. Horses are not unfrequently very troublesome through life by a fault in first shoeing.

The signs of a good road horse, and for speed, are, a small head, a short back, and flat legs. Something may be known by the countenance, which cannot well be described. A bright full eye, wide nostrils, and a projecting wide forehead, may be considered some of the signs of courage and long wind. The color of horses depends somewhat upon fancy; but bay, dapple gray and black are the most preferred in our county.

The three greatest and most common faults to which horses are liable, are stumbling, kicking, and shying. We know of no remedy for the first. The second may be avoided by using him to the harness about his haunches and head, when out of the carriage, and when he can do no mischief. Shying may be quite benefited, if not cured, by stopping and moving slowly by the object, instead of urging the horse to breast it at once.

The Arabian breed of horses are attracting some attention in our county. They have not yet come to years quite sufficient for use. They promise speed, courage, docility, and an exemption from most of the principal faults of road horses.

The growing of this kind of stock in our county is, at the present time, receiving great attention, if we may judge from the number at the show. We believe it to be as profitable as any other stock, as very few horses, at four years old, are worth less than from seventy-five to one hundred dollars. The demand and the value have not lessened, but rather increased, since the introduction of railroads.

Now, let us bespeak for this noble animal kind treatment, good keeping, and light burdens. With such gentle usage, the horse will love and serve you faithfully for twenty-five, forty, and even fifty years. Do not maim or disfigure him by the cruel practice of pricking, nicking, or even cutting off a single hair, which the Author of nature has furnished him with for his special accommodation. And good taste will require, that in his natural garb and form, he actually shows the best, and is the most comfortable to himself. Curry and groom him every day, and give him a blanket and a warm stable in cold weather, and clean straw to lie on. Talk to and with him, for he will soon understand your language, and manifest signs of recognition, or the tenor, at least, of your words.

Horses like to be petted, and words of encouragement, we will again repeat, are better, under all circumstances, than the whip.

For the committee.

R. A. MERRIAM.

Salem, *Sept.* 27, 1849.

— *Trans. Essex Ag. Society for* 1849.

SUGAR GROWING IN LOUISIANA.

The Baton Rouge Advocate of July 11, after speaking favorably of the high lands in the States, as adapted to the cultivation of the sugar-cane, says, —

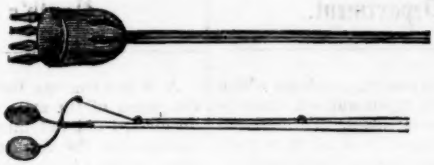
The last two years have brought a vast cultivation, more, perhaps, than for any previous ten years. In this section, the sugar mill is rapidly taking the place of the cotton gin; the unoccupied lands are coming into cultivation, and even the worn-out and abandoned cotton fields are found well adapted to the raising of this crop. There are now being erected, in this vicinity, no less than fifteen sugar mills, at probably an average cost of $10,000 each. This will bring into cultivation not less than five thousand acres of land, throwing into the market one hundred and forty thousand hogsheads of sugar, which will find its natural transit through Baton Rouge.

Agriculture in New Hampshire. — A state agricultural fair is to be held at Concord, N. H., on the second and third days of October next. A large number of premiums will be awarded in all departments of agriculture and mechanics. The premiums are large for the first effort, varying from one to twenty dollars, and the committees are large and well chosen. The fair is got up under the auspices of the N. H. State Agricultural Society, recently formed.

Fallen Fruit. — Be very careful to gather all punctured or decaying fruits, whether on your trees or on the ground, and give them to your hogs. If you do not, the worms which they contain, and which have been the cause of their premature decay, will make their escape into the ground, and you will find the evils which await their visitations increase upon you another season.

Agricultural. — The Delaware State Agricultural Society has passed resolutions, protesting against the Canadian recipfocity bill, and advocating an agricultural bureau at Washington.

A Big Calf. — Dea. David Alden, of Southboro', lately killed a calf, that weighed, when dressed, *one hundred and seventy-five pounds.* Has any one beat this, or even equalled it?



FRUIT GATHERERS.

The upper cut represents an implement made of tin or sheet iron. It is composed of a cup attached to a handle, with teeth on one side the cup, between which the stem of the fruit is received, when it is forced from the tree, and falls into the vessel prepared for its reception. In this way, fruit may be gathered from high and extended limbs without bruising, to which it is liable in falling from the tree.

The lower cut represents an implement composed of two cups of tin or other light material, of sufficient size to receive a large apple, attached to iron arms, which are fixed at the end of a light pole. A string passes along the pole, and is fastened to one of the arms, and when it is drawn by the operator, they close upon the fruit, which may be easily taken from any part of the highest tree without the least injury.

PRUNING SAW AND CHISEL.

This implement is very convenient for pruning trees of elevated or high branches. The blade of the saw is about a foot long, with one end attached to the blade of a chisel, and the other to a projection from the socket. The chisel is several inches wide, very thin, and of the best material. This combined implement is attached to a pole of suitable length, so that a person can stand on the ground and trim his trees with convenience.

USES OF SEA MUCK.

The Agriculturist for July, in an article on manures, speaks thus of the beds of sea muck formed or forming on the shores of this country: —

There is enough of these deposits, in New Jersey, to fertilize no inconsiderable portion of its hungry and impoverished uplands. The same is true of most of our sea-wasned coasts. Millions of wealth lie buried in every marsh and stagnant pool, which needs but half the capital and energy devoted to the exhumation of California gold, to develop equal wealth, and with far more certainty.

There are various ways of compounding and applying sea or swamp muck to the soil. The simplest way, and one as generally profitable as any other, unless other fertilizing matters can be made by the addition, is by throwing it up in heaps for partial drainage and decomposition before applying; or if the land be a hungry, silicious (sandy or gravelly) soil, apply it as soon as taken out of its bed, when sufficiently dried for economical removal. The sand will seize upon this new food with great avidity, and will rapidly decompose and convert it into vegetable manure. The salt in all such as is exposed to the ocean tides will add materially to its value for manure.

If the application is to be made to clays or adhesive lands, then the muck should first undergo partial decomposition. To effect this, several modes may be adopted. It may be most advantageously thrown into the cattle-yards and pens, or privies, to absorb and become incorporated with the urine and droppings; or it may receive the wash of the house, the road-side, the offal from slaughter-houses, melters' shops, tanneries, woollen manufactories, and the like. In this way, it becomes decomposed and every way fitted for the greatest utility; but it also acts as an absorbent, or a strong box to hoard those soluble or volatile matters that would escape into adjacent rivulets, or evaporate in the air. The value of this material, when applied in this way, is incalculable, and it should always be used to the fullest extent of its useful agency.

But when at remote distances from the cattle-yards, or it is wanted in quantities much beyond what can be prepared in this way, we have found lime (unslaked, or quicklime) to be the most efficient decomposer of these muck beds. They are frequently filled with hard, fibrous, wiry roots and stalks, which might lie undecomposed for years in many compact soils. But when brought into contact with lime, all those and similar matters are readily converted into finely divided manure, which is capable at once of yielding its nutritious substance to the growing plant. This mixture may then be added to other manures, or applied on any soils or crops with the utmost benefit.

ROSE CUTTINGS.

One of the best methods of securing the success of these, is to stick the cutting about an inch deep into *clean* river sand, with properly prepared soil about an inch below, to receive the roots as soon as they strike. The clean sand prevents the roots from rotting. A correspondent of the Horticulturist succeeded with this when every other mode failed, and says he does not lose one in twenty.

We would add, that if the cuttings are thrown into water for a day or two, they are much more likely to grow. They should of course be placed under glass during winter and the continuance of frost. The last half of this month and the first week of next month is the time to set out. The cutting are necessarily of this year's growth. — *Telegraph.*

Domestic Department.

YOUNG FEMALES. — The increasing privileges which an illumination has conferred upon our sex, exceedingly heightened their responsibilities. Formerly, to be "faithful over a *few* things" was all that their limited sphere required; now they are both qualified and expected to be made "rulers over *many* things." The treasures of their own minds are revealed to them, and they are summoned forth as laborers in the wide field of benevolence. The temple of science is no longer inaccessible to the foot of woman. From its pavilion, whence, with Moslem jealousy, she was for ages excluded, a voice addressed her, "Enter in and live." Of treasures which had been from ancient times accumulated, yet strictly sealed from her eyes, she is invited to partake. It remains to be proved in what manner this invitation will be received — this admittance valued. Will she loiter at the threshold of this magnificent temple? Will she amuse herself in its courts by gathering its brief flowers that spring up where there is no deepness of earth? Will she just enter the gate, and proclaim, with the shrillness of vanity, her own invitation? her own proficiency in the mysteries of knowledge? Or will she press to the innermost shrine among those true-hearted and meek-souled worshippers, "whose candle goeth not out by night"?

Young females, these interrogations are emphatically for *you*. With you it is the time of culture, the day of hope. Suffer not the allurements, the temptation of indolence, to prevent your oblation on the altar of wisdom. Come while the dews of the morning are fresh about you. The meridian may absorb your vigor, or find you toiling in different and more sterile fields. May you not be constrained to adopt the lamentation, "My own vineyard have I not kept." A time will come, should your days be prolonged, when life may seem like a twice-told tale, — when, the present and the future disrobed of the novelty, the mind will turn for enjoyment to the past. Lay then a deep foundation, and collect a story of imperishable fruits for this season of retrospection, convinced that "knowledge is power." Seek it when it may be obtained, and so use it that all within the sphere of your influence may be prompted by your example to the attainment of moral excellence, to the pursuit of "glory, honor, immortality, and eternal life." — *Mrs. Sigourney.*

ELDERBERRY PIES. — A correspondent, H., dating at Somerville, St. Lawrence county, New York, sends the editor of the American Agriculturist the following receipt for making pies from black elderberries. As this berry is pretty abundant in this region, we may serve a good purpose in publishing it.

It may not be generally known that the fruit of the common black-berried elder (*Sambucus canadensis*) affords a most delicious and wholesome material for pies. When rightly prepared, it would not be known from those made from the whortleberry, and many would prefer them to the raspberry and the blackberry. A tablespoonful of vinegar should be added to each pie, which will neutralize the peculiar taste, and impart a pleasant acid flavor. No other precaution need be taken, and no difference is observed in preparing them for use.

The red-berried elder is poisonous, but cannot be mistaken for the other, because it ripens its fruit long before the black elder comes to maturity. When this very abundant berry is better known, it will be more highly prized, and doubtless would improve in quality under judicious cultivation.

Youth's Department.

A WORD FOR THE BOYS. — In attempting to point out some of the evils attending other branches of business, I did not intend to be understood as intimating that the farmer was *without his* difficulties. But the great truth which I would, if possible, impress on the minds of the youthful part of the agricultural community is, that the farmer has, on the whole, fewer evils and temptations to encounter, and has within his reach more of the means of substantial and lasting happiness, than any other inhabitant of this beautiful world — yes, this beautiful, glorious world of ours, for so it is, notwithstanding what all the croakers may say to the contrary. But labor is his destiny, and this we do not wish to deny or conceal. Indeed, it seems to have been the original intention of the great Creator, that man should spend his days on earth in constant labor and exercise. For what does the good book say? — that he was put into the garden to sit under the shady trees all day, and when he was hungry, merely to stretch out his hand and pick up the fruit? No; it says no such thing. It says, "The Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden, *to dress it and to keep it.*" Whether or not he performed that part of his duty well, we are not particularly informed; but as we have an account of his doing *one* "thing that he ought not to have done," I think it is very natural to conclude that he might have "left undone *some* of those things which he ought to have done," and that, in fact, it may be barely possible that if he had been busy "keeping and dressing" his garden, he might have been out of the way of temptation. Be that as it may, it is very certain that in our day there are many gardens and farms which bring forth "thorns and thistles" most abundantly, "for the sake," or at least in consequence, of the indolence of their occupants; and I believe these are the kind of men most likely to be found in the employment of the *Old Serpent.*

This brings us, however, to another *great truth*, which mankind have been and still are to this day slow to believe, namely, that *labor is not an evil*, but a great and incalculable blessing. Doubtless it may be, and in some cases is, carried to excess, and wears out the man prematurely. Notwithstanding, that constant labor, day after day, is a blessing, and not an evil, is a great truth, which should be impressed on the mind of every man, woman, and child. But that we may know and feel that labor is really and in truth a blessing, the mind and the body must both labor together; and this carries us away back to when I was talking about "food for the mind." Here lies the great secret, the "philosopher's stone" that turns all the iron into gold — food for the mind — or more properly, perhaps, work for the mind. The body cares nothing for work, nor heat, nor cold, nor rain, nor snow, provided the mind too is at work. But when working alone, the body tires, and the mind, for the want of better employment, soon begins to sympathize with the poor body, and both get into a bad fix. On the other hand, the mind cannot long work alone. The body, when left idle, soon becomes enfeebled and diseased; of this, the pale faces and slender forms of multitudes of students and professional men afford the most melancholy and conclusive evidence. Now, the only proper system of education and practice, through life, is, that both body and mind work together; for experience proves that they are mutually strengthened and invigorated by constant exercise. And mankind are beginning, though slowly, to profit by the experience. And I think that even a boy may satisfy himself, by a little reflection, that these things are so. Suppose you were

to be allowed the privilege of cultivating an acre of land in corn for your own especial benefit, with plenty of manure, and time enough to do it in the best possible manner — and if you could obtain a premium on it from the Agricultural Society, that too should be yours. You would then, of course, like to know how those men who have raised great crops of corn have managed; you would probably look over, carefully, the back numbers of the Central New York Farmer, and perhaps those of the Cultivator and the Genesee Farmer, if you could obtain them, and get all the information you could; then you would take the course which you thought, on the whole, best suited to your particular piece of land, and go to work. Suppose, now, that your corn should come up and grow finely, and flourish even beyond your highest expectations, and that finally it should be allowed that yours was decidedly the best corn in the neighborhood, and probably in the county. Think you it would be *hard work* to tend that field of corn? — to plough it, manure it, plant it, hoe it, and nurse it throughout? I think not. I believe you would say the happiest days you spent that summer were in that field of corn — and why? Simply because your whole mind was engaged in the thing — or, in other words, was at work. And a scientific practical farmer would have his mind constantly and as pleasurably engaged in the management of his farm, and in fact much more so, in consequence of the great variety of objects that would engage his attention. But we must begin to apply all this to the every-day practice of a farmer boy, viz., to assist him, in some measure, to increase his present and future happiness, by furnishing food for his mind, or setting his head to work. I fear, however, that my young friends will think me more prolific in words than wisdom, as I have again reached the end of my sheet without coming to the end of my subject; but if their patience is not entirely "used up," I will, if opportunity permit, try my pen once more, and endeavor to be as brief as possible.

UNCLE JONATHAN.

— *Central New-York Farmer.*

Health Department.

A Plea for Cold Water. — Not half the benefits of *cold water* have yet been told. From a work printed in 1721, Dr. Manwaring says water is the most wholesome of all drinks — being appointed for man in his best state, and being the natural drink of all animals; for it cools, moistens, and quenches thirst, and conveys the nourishment through the smallest vessels of the body. It requires little caution in the use of it, (except in very hot weather,) since none are tempted to drink it to excess. Water-drinkers are found to be the longest livers, and seldom complain of diseases. Dr. Keill says water is better fitted to promote digestion than other drinks; while spiritous liquors weaken the organs of the stomach, and thus impede digestion. Water, says Dr. Bayard, concocts our food better than any spiritous or fermented liquors. Dr. Pratt has shown, that people who use cold water as a drink, are wholly or far more free from palsies, apoplexies, giddiness, trembling, pains of head, piles, rheumatism, &c.; and it is known that these diseases are most incident to those who freely use strong drinks. He also says that pure water strengthens the stomach, gives an appetite, preserves the sight, and cleanses all the passages of the body. Dr. Duncan asserts that they who are content with water have more health and strength than others; and that strong liquors raise the heat of the stomach too much; make the blood unnaturally, and therefore injuriously, hot — and that the blood, so inflamed, causeth indigestion, and various pains, vapors, rheums, ulcers, and premature death. Sir John Floyer says water-drinkers are prudent and moderate in their conduct — they are free from diseases which affect the head, and from a fetid breath. He states cases in which the use of spring water has effected cures by washing off the acid humors from the blood, giving strength to the stomach and bowels, and creating a good appetite and digestion.

Sir Thomas Eliot declares in his book, "Castle of Health," that the poor people in his vicinity seldom drank any thing but water, and that they were strong, free of most diseases, and lived to a great age. He says, when he was in Levant, where the use of wine was forbidden, as the people were Mahometans, he did not drink it; and found he had a better appetite and digested his food better than before, when he often used it. Dr. Harvey says it is not so much heat which causeth indigestion, as a liquid provided by nature, and which dissolves the food, is depraved by spiritous liquors; and he commends water above all other drink, to promote digestion. Water-drinking is a preventive of the gout, and of hypochondriac complaints, but both are produced by the use of fermented liquors. It has also proved a cure or a preventive of several painful diseases. It should be the regular drink of man and woman; and it should be given young children to drink, as well as for a bath. It also makes the mother a better nurse than *toddy* or wine, or any spiritous cordials; and who does not know the value of water in bruises and sprains? Besides all which, water is cheap, and will not give indirect pain to the wife or children. — *Selected.*

Mechanics' Department, Arts, &c.

To color Pine to imitate Black Walnut. — Every kind of wood is easier colored than pine, because there is so much rosin in it, which prevents the dye from entering; but the Scientific American gives the following directions for doing it, which may be new to some of our readers: The pine should be perfectly free of knots, (as they will not color,) and a strong solution of hot logwood, boiled in a vessel for three hours, rubbed carefully all over it, and then allowed to dry. It would be better to have a large vessel of strong liquor, in which to steep the pine for a few days, such as an old molasses cask. After the logwood is dried, a solution of copperas should be applied in the same way as the logwood, which will make the color quite black. By using a strong solution of sumac in place of the logwood, the wood will become quite dark when it gets the copperas put on it, but it will not have the rich appearance of the logwood color. By using alum in place of copperas, a purple kind of color will be made upon the wood.

To make Whitewash that will not rub off. — Mix up a pailful of lime and water ready to put on the wall, then take a quarter of a pint of flour, mix it up with water, then pour on it boiling water, a sufficient quantity to thicken it; then pour it, while hot, into the whitewash. Stir it well together, and it is ready for use.

The fetters of rhyme are no more than a bracelet to the true poet.

ECONOMY.

Teach children economy, both by precept and example. Economy is one of the main pillars of success and reputation in future life, as avarice is its bane.

The grand element, after superior talent and good sense, in the character of Washington, Franklin, the Adamses, and nearly all our revolutionary worthies and their predecessors, and with equal justice we may add, their successors also, was economy — economy in its broadest sense, economy of time, of opportunity, intelligence, and advantages, equally with economy of money.

Without economy, Franklin would have had no time nor money to acquire the stores of information he had treasured up, and that stood him in such good stead in after life. Franklin agreed to board himself for half the amount allowed his fellow-apprentices. He bought bread, raisins, and other simple, nutritious, and easily-digested food, which he could eat without cooking. The consequence was, he had despatched his meal in the printing-office before they had reached their boarding-house. All the remainder of the time occupied by the more laborious meal was by him devoted to those acquirements which subsequently delighted the literary and scientific world. What was saved from his food, furnished the only means he could command for the purchase of books. Thus half the money spent by his fellows on board, amply supplied him with both mental and physical food.

Had Franklin been the low-minded, needy gormandizer, dependent on any greedy schemer or paltry politician for the means to gratify a loathsome appetite, he would have succumbed to the popular clamor when almost universally assailed. But after inviting all his objectors to his frugal repast, — a dinner of plain boiled Indian pudding without dressing, — of which he partook heartily, while their pampered stomachs turned from it with disgust, he showed them his independence of popular support, and that even then he had purposed that self-dependent, *self-dictated* course, which was destined afterwards to challenge the admiration of both hemispheres.

The untiring activity, enterprise, and economy of Washington enabled him to devote the seven long years of the revolutionary war to his country's service, without pecuniary recompense. By the practice of these virtues, he had acquired the ability largely to augment the gift of a patriotism so opportune, and so almost indispensable to a suffering nation.

Arnold had his morbid, undisciplined, clamorous appetite to pander for; and without strong moral principle to uphold him, rapidly ran through a career of extortion, peculation, and robbery, till he was fitted for the last great leap into the abyss of infamy, long before prepared for him by the arch tempter, who had early and effectually taught him to *despise economy*.

It is said that the British emissary sent to treat with Marion, finding him sheltered in the almost impenetrable fastnesses of a swamp, and with his entire suite of officers dining on a few roasted potatoes, reported the hopelessness of assailing an enemy so independent of the conveniences of life, and threw up his commission, which could be only employed in the futile efforts of tyranny against a self-denying patriotism and virtue.

Labor & Mechanics

But leaving examples historically conspicuous, let us look at the every-day avocations of life. Examine the success of business men, in this or any other large city. How few of those, *to the manor born*, achieve independence by their own exertions! Reckon up all the successful men, whether as importers, shippers, jobbers, or retailers; examine any class of mechanics or artisans; look into the professions of the pulpit and the bar, of surgery and medicine, of artists, authors, publishers, and schemers of every hue and description, and nineteen out of twenty, if not ninety-nine out of a hundred, will be found to have been bred in the country, and early trained to hardy enterprise, patient endurance, and the most rigid economy. These are the elements of future prosperity; the only bases of success. This is the law of our being — an ingrain principle of our nature, without the early and constant practice of which, future achievement is as hopeless as growth without food, or vitality without air; they are indeed so essential, that they should be taught and enforced even where there is no present necessity for their practice. Teach the little girls to economize their dresses, their school-books, their pin-money, and even the paper-rags, — and the boys their own little personal matters, and those pertaining to the farm, as economy in feeding the animals, economy in saving and supplying manures, economy in the application of hand, ox, and horse labor to their various and appropriate duties, — and we will guarantee to every child of good sense and sterling moral principle, thus educated, the greatest measure of success attainable in the sphere, occupation, and circumstances with which they may be surrounded. — *American Agriculturist.*

AMELIORATION OF LANDS BY DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION.

Water is an indispensable agent in the production of vegetation. It is only in a state of solution that the *pabulum* of plants can be taken up; and although every circumstance associated with the economical process of nutrition be favorable, yet the deficiency of this fluid — nay, the privation of a constant and properly graduated supply — will nullify and render them utterly inefficient in reproduction and sustenance of vegetable organisms. The wheel of the miller demands a continued supply, or it ceases to revolve; if the fountain fails and the stream shrinks, the wheel remains idle. So if the soil be not irrigated by the dews and rains of heaven, or by artificial means, no useful vegetation clothes its surface, the phenomena of reproduction ceases, and the beautiful creations of organic life wither and die. But the redundancy of water is no less detrimental to a healthy and vigorous vegetable development, than the entire privation of it. Every one has observed that lands which are submerged during the greater part of the season, are usually, if not invariably, sterile; and this result ensues, whether the water be upon or near the surface. Soils, also, which are so situated as to be inundated during seasons of protracted or copious rains, are often more seriously and injuriously affected by the opposite extreme of excessive drought, than the more dry and porous soils. The legitimate solution of this is, that such soils are deficient in native energy, — there is no action except in a very thin stratum of the superficial parts, in consequence of the supernatant water in the spring and fall indurating all to the surface; and consequently, when dry weather succeeds, the crops, which have taken root, being deprived of the requisite quantum of water, sicken and die. Swamps on which water stands, and perhaps stagnates, from lack of action, during a great part of the season, produce only aquatic grasses. Such lands, though replete with humus, and all the more essential elements of latent vegetation, are, in their pristine and unameliorated state, little better than water and barrens. Whenever lands of this description are found, the adoption of a correct system of drainage is the only resource. Drainage may often be effected by simply deepening

the natural passage-ways of the water, or by the opening of a ditch sufficiently large to carry off a superabundant water, and reduce the soil to that consistency which is the best calculated to secure the sustenance and support of a vigorous and profitable vegetative force. In some low lands, no superficial indications of the presence of water, in excessive and permanent quantities, are exhibited; yet the opening of a drain will evolve the true cause of their barrenness. The subsoil, in such cases, requires amending, for it is here that the real evil is found to exist in the form of stagnant or cold water, both of which, in such circumstances, are unfavorable to vegetable life.

On this subject, an able writer remarks, "Lowering the water one foot, in some instances, may be sufficient; the mud in swamps that have been submerged for ages, may be brought into action as the best of soil, yielding hay and other vegetable productions, for a long time, almost without the aid of manures. If cold springs come in near the edges, these may be cut off and carried away by means of ditches, filled in with rocks that are often found near at hand; or, where rocks are not to be found, the logs and stumps dug from the land may be used in the place of stones, leaving apertures in the drains for the water to pass off. Large swamps are by these means reclaimed, and a vast quantity of the richest soil brought into use." The substitution of stumps for stones, in filling the drains, is not a judicious practice, as by the tendency of these to decay and rot, and, from their peculiar formation, to choke and arrest the transmission of the water, they operate harmfully, and should always be rejected except where stones cannot be obtained unless at great expense. It is generally the case that the high and elevated, and commonly rocky lands, surrounding swamps and bogs, render the procurement of suitable materials for the accomplishment of this department of draining comparatively easy; and where this is not the case, most farms of any extent furnish an ample supply.

On the subject of surface-draining, our author observes, "Of the hard lands, continually suffering from surface water, there are thousands of acres that may be changed entirely by drainage: when an under drain, cutting off cold springs, and receiving the water from the surface, is once made, the ground or subsoil may be stirred below; and the deeper we go, less than eighteen inches or two feet, the greater will be the capacity of the land to produce. Even stiff, clayey soils may be drained so as to become light and permeable. The action of stimulating manures, upon such grounds, often brings out of the ground giant productions. In the cultivation of lands, whether they be wet or dry, the stirring of the subsoil is productive of great advantage. The ground cannot be stirred too deep."

By *stirring*, the writer does not mean inversion, or the bringing to the surface large quantities of cold, unenergetic soil, while the vegetable stratum of the top is turned down and buried beyond the ordinary range or reach of the roots. This would be to inflict sterility and barrenness upon the most affluent soil. But by the use of the subsoil plough, which loosens and somewhat pulverizes the substratum or subsoil without elevating or bringing any portion of it to the surface, the capacity of all land for vegetable production will be greatly and permanently increased. Of this fact, the Scotch and English agriculturists have long been aware, and many in this country have used the subsoil plough with the best and most flattering results. A PRACTICAL FARMER.

BALD EAGLE FARM, *July* 12, 1850.

— *Germantown Telegraph.*

Nothing is more frightful than active ignorance.

SAXON AND MERINO SHEEP.

Is there not great confusion among wool-growers regarding the above-named breeds of sheep? And does not that confusion lead to many bad results in breeding, as well as in the choice of flocks? We think it does.

What now constitutes a Merino? We answer, A certain kind of sheep originally from Spain, and known there as the Infantado or Negretti. They are generally known in this country as a compact-built sheep, with a dark fleece of fine wool, and showing a great deal of loose skin under the throat, and generally over the body. It is a further characteristic of this breed to have wool upon their legs down to the hoof. Their fleeces are filled with gum and yolk, which gives the peculiar dark color to the outside.

The Saxon is a finer wooled sheep than the Merino. There is little or no loose skin under the throat; the face and legs are clean; the wool much clearer of gum or yolk, very fine and soft; and the fleece much lighter than the Merino. This breed was known in Spain as the Escurial, a branch of the Merino family; the term "Merino" meaning, as applied to Spanish sheep, all their fine-wooled sheep, as "Chunah" means their coarse-wooled.

Are these separate and distinct breeds, and have they been so for a length of time? We incline to the opinion that they are distinct breeds, and that no reasonable time can change them. We do not, for instance, believe that from a pure-blooded flock of Escurials it would be possible to breed a flock of Infantados; nor do we believe any amount of good breeding could produce from a flock of pure Infantados the light-formed and gracefully-shaped Escurial.

We are aware that the attempt has been made, both in this country and in Germany, to procure a breed by crossing that should combine the excellence of both. We do not know of any person who has been successful in this country, while in Germany the attempt has been entirely abandoned. The breeds may be improved, there is no doubt; but it must be by keeping the blood of each class pure. Since the German sheep-breeders have adopted this plan, they have met with the most happy results. The late importations of Saxons show a very great improvement, both in carcass and fleece, and are as unlike the early importations of that breed as can well be imagined. We hope our flock-masters in this country will turn their attention to a more careful system of breeding. Keep the breeds as pure as possible, and in a few years we probably can boast of as good sheep as any country.

There are those who believe that the breeds can be mixed to advantage, and we should like to hear their views on the subject; but we confess that, so far as our own observation goes, a good race of sheep cannot be produced.

There perhaps cannot be a better place nor a more appropriate opportunity for us to define our position in regard to the various sheep interests of the country than here and now.

We wish it distinctly understood, then, that, as the conductor of this journal, we recognize no party, sect, or faction of wool-growers or sheep-breeders. We will not submit to be dictated to or controlled by any of them. All who desire it may have a fair hearing — each may put forth his claims before the public — and any controversy, while conducted in a decorous manner, and made interesting by facts and arguments, will be permitted. This journal is intended to be the organ for the wool-growing interest of the whole Union — impartial and independent. We have no partialities — no favorites. Our highest ambition is to see this great interest placed upon a firm basis, and in a sound and flourishing condition; and if the wool-growers will rally around us, we shall have no

fear for the result. These remarks have become in a degree necessary, from the fact that some of our kind and valued friends have taken exceptions to our remarks upon sheep in No. 3. Hereafter, if any one thinks he sees us departing in the slightest degree from our "platform," we shall feel obliged if he will call our attention to it. — *Wool-Grower.*

REVIEW OF WOOL MARKET FOR JULY, 1850.

Never in the history of the country has the wool trade taken such a course as it has this season. The whole clip has gone out of first hands, and is held by more purchasers than in any previous year. It has nearly all left the west, and this state, and has gone directly to the mills. There are no large stocks in New York or Boston, and, with but two exceptions, the dealers in Philadelphia have none on hand. Nor is this all. There is no wool to go to these points. No stocks can accumulate, because there is no wool in the country to be sent forward. It has been purchased and sent forward, and is pretty equally diffused among the manufacturers. There is not a million of pounds of wool west of this city for sale; nor is there in this state, west of Utica, half a million of pounds to come upon the market. Still the manufacturers have not, upon an average, a stock of wool to last them over four months, if they run to the full capacity of their machinery; and it will not be in their power to supply the deficiency from foreign wool. It cannot be had, for all the wool markets have experienced an advance, and the staple has been taken up, with great rapidity, for the French and English markets. The question comes up, then, What will the manufacturers do? We see but one course. They will be compelled to stop their mills, or work only a part of their machinery. In either event it will produce a good result. Their goods will become scarce, and they will be enabled to get a material advance, which will in some degree compensate for the high prices paid this spring for wool; for they all complain that their wool has cost them nearly or quite twenty per cent. more than they expected, when the market opened. — *Wool-Grower.*

BREAKING IN HEIFERS.

S. P. C., of Clockville, N. Y., gives us the following information relative to his mode of "breaking in heifers," through the Rural New-Yorker. There is a great deal of good sense in it.

"The *cause* of heifers or cows being refractory is, generally, *fear*. This, I presume, will be readily admitted, and I submit it, whether a "good switch" and "loud words" are an efficient remedy; or will they not have a tendency to *increase* that fear?

"Now, the great rule which has always governed me in breaking in my heifers, is *kindness*. Always from calves treat them with kindness, handle them, curry them, and be with them often, and they will grow up perfectly docile and harmless. They will never kick nor run from you, but will apparently care as much for you as for their offspring. They will not unfrequently *come to you* to be milked; and I once had a cow that would, at milking time, follow me to any part of the yard for this purpose, and she must always be the *first* cow milked. If this *notice* was refused her, she would apparently feel quite *indignant*. I once purchased a valuable cow very cheap, from the fact of her being bad to milk. She had been *whipped*, until it was acknowledged that whipping did no good. The first time I milked her she started several times — would run a short distance, and look around, apparently in the greatest fear. I would go up to this cow, pat her gently, speak kindly to her, and frequently, during the day, card her. She soon seemed to lose all fear, would start less frequently, and in the course of two or three weeks was as gentle as any cow in my herd, and a woman could milk her with perfect safety. I had not had the cow more than a year, before I was offered for her three times the price she cost me.

"I *never* had a heifer show the least sign of kicking at her first milking, although they will not always stand still. *I never use a whip*, or any thing else, for the purpose of breaking them in, that will have the least tendency to frighten the young animal. A good card is much more effective, is much easier used, and is much more *agreeable* to the animal, as any one who will *try it* will readily acknowledge.

"I should particularly like to have some of the advocates of the *cut and slash* doctrine come and see my herd — see the perfect docility of every animal — their universal *good temper* — and then say which is the most effective, kindness or brutal force. Every animal in my herd is perfectly gentle, and can be handled as well in the lot as in the yard. The only difficulty I have with them, is, when I occasionally curry them, the *master* animals seem very *jealous*, and will not permit their inferiors to enjoy the *luxury* without some molestation."

GREEN VEGETABLE MANURE.

This has been used for upwards of two thousand years, and in countries where the art of culture has been most attended to. Various crops have been sown with no other view than to be buried in, when fully grown, to render the soil fit for crops of more importance. Every species of vegetable, in a green state, acts more or less as fertilizers, some probably more than others, according to their power of draining organic matter from the air, and inorganic from the subsoil. It is, therefore, no detriment to the soil to be covered with weeds, providing they are not allowed to seed, and that they be dug into the ground instead of being hoed down and raked off, which latter process is a direct robbery of the soil. Green vegetable manure is most effective on light, sandy soils, and least so on peaty lands. It is surprising how much valuable manure is wasted in gardens, by carrying it to the compost heap, instead of at once burying it in the soil; and how much is lost or neglected in woods and waste places, from mere indolence, or from want of knowing that rampant nettles and rank-growing plants constitute a great amount of the food of plants. Tree leaves and the mowing of lawns are valuable manures, and far too seldom turned to useful account. For using green vegetable manure, it should be applied as soon as possible after it is cut. — *North British Agriculturist.*

TO PROTECT PLUMS.

I notice in the farmer's column of the 25th number of the present volume of the "Newspaper," an inquiry in regard to preserving plums from the curculio or other insects. Having had some little experience in the culture of plums, I will say a word on the subject. Some seventeen years ago, I bought a farm on which was a fine plum orchard. Some of the largest trees, the first year, had a great quantity of plums set on them. When they had got about half the natural size they began to fall off, and not one on the whole of my trees ever came to maturity. Such as remained on until they should have been ripe, were a hard substance, and the gum exuded

from them as if stung by some insect. These trees were all very thrifty. I had made up my mind to cut down those of them that did not bear fruitfully. The second year I hired a man to prune my orchard. He asked me if he should prune my plums. I replied, no; that I had concluded to cut them down, as they had no fruit on them, any thing like plums. He told me to prune them when they were in full bloom, and I would have good fruit. I concluded to try it for one year longer, and if they did not bear fruit then, I would cut them down. I did so, and found, to my astonishment, I had the best of fruit, and for two years did not fail to get a good yield of fruit. I then sold my place, and have not seen it since, but have no doubt the trees will bear fruit as long as they live, and the pruning will add years to the life of the trees.

The idea that the insect stings the tree or fruit is not altogether correct. In nine cases out of ten (in my opinion) it is owing to the top of the tree being too large for the roots to support. If you keep your trees properly pruned, you will get not only a good supply of fruit, but of the best quality. J. L. F.

Hill-Top, Wayne Co., Pa., 1850.

— *Dollar Newspaper.*

FACTS ABOUT SWINE.

We have received from Mr. Rood, of Adrian, some facts in regard to the breeding of swine, which are of importance to every farmer. Mr. R. remarked that he had long observed that pigs from old sows made much heavier hogs than those from young sows. And he related an instance which places the matter in a very striking light. He had two sows of the same breed, one of which was one year old and the other three, the former being out of the latter. Both sows had a litter of pigs on the same night, and as a part of both litters were destroyed, the two litters were put together and nursed by the older sow. The pigs of the younger sow were apparently the most promising, at first; but they all grew up together, were treated alike and fatted alike, and when they came to be killed, the pigs of the older sow weighed about eighty pounds more than those of the young one. — *Michigan Farmer.*

THE VALUE OF OIL IN INDIAN CORN.

According to Prof. Johnson, the popping properties of corn depend upon the expansion of the oil, on the application of heat. A barrel of pop corn would give six barrels of popped corn; while the rice corn, which contains a still larger proportion of oil, would give thirty-six barrels of popped corn from one unpopped; while there are some kinds which, from the absence of oil, would not pop at all. The structure of grains is a most important study. It is particularly important in its bearing upon the feeding of stock. The same explanation he applied also to wheat, which he said also contains a smaller proportion of oil than corn.

THE PRESERVATION OF PROVISIONS.

The science of preserving meat, lard, butter, cheese, and other animal as well as vegetable substances used as food for man, has received very little attention in this country. This neglect causes a loss of many millions every year. To say nothing of the bad taste of eating so much frowy and rancid butter at home, full one half of all that is sent to England and other foreign countries is sold at half the price of sweet butter by reason of the defective manner in which it is manufactured and put up for market. American farmers have great advantages for the economical production of beef and pork, mutton and wool; and it will render them a valuable service to obtain from Europe correct information of all discoveries and improvements, either in the growing and feeding of domestic animals or in the curing of provisions. — *Patent-Office Report.*

FORTY GOOD SHEEP.

Thomas Hale, Esq. Dear Sir: In October last I purchased of Alfred Hull, Esq., of Wallingford, Rutland county, eleven merino bucks and nineteen merino ewes, four Tainter bucks and six Tainter ewes. On the 26th June last, I sheared two hundred and fifty-four pounds fine and light wool, well washed and tagged — average weight from each, six pounds five and one half ounces. The average from the merino bucks was seven pounds three ounces; from the merino ewes, five and one half pounds — from the Tainter bucks, seven pounds six ounces; from the Tainter ewes, six pounds twelve ounces.

During the month of December I gave the bucks one pint of corn per day, and hay only, during the other time, to all of them. If our manufacturers are encouraged to pay us good prices, I think we farmers can make a living by raising wool from the improved merino and Tainter breeds.

Respectfully yours,

FREEMAN H. CHASE.

Chelsea, Vt., *July* 10, 1850.

— *Journal.*

RICH MEN OF NEW YORK.

The starting-point in the course of some of the rich men in New York, is thus referred to in the Herald: —

There is hardly a rich man in this community who did not commence his career poor — began as a journeyman in his line of business. The career of a few of our leading rich men may serve as instances. The late John Jacob Astor, who died not long ago, and was probably worth thirty millions, commenced his career on this continent as a journeyman pedler, beginning with candy, and getting on in fur peddling, when he commenced investing in real estate. His descendants are now stars at the opera. The late John G. Costar was a journeyman hatter, and died recently a millionnaire. The late John Mason was originally a tailor, from Connecticut; the late Mr. Jones, a cooper — yet both were honest and industrious through life, and left large fortunes, which their happy descendants are enjoying in every genteel way. Stephen Whitney, who now owns blocks of buildings in the city, began as a journeyman clerk in a small grocery store. The Harpers, whose business now amounts to millions, began as journeymen printers, and now build churches and endow parsons. The Havemeyers were journeymen sugar refiners. C. H. Marshall, the large ship owner, was a sailor before the mast. The wealthy merchants, Spofford & Tileston, were journeymen — one as a printer, the other in the shoe business. E. K. Collins, the great steamship and packet owner, and liberal merchant, was a journeyman clerk in a commission house. Stetson, of the Astor House, was a journeyman bar-keeper at his start. Shortland, the rich cooper and land owner, was for years merely a journeyman cooper. And so it is in every rank, profession, and extended business in which men engage in this city. Our richest and most prosperous citizens commenced with nothing, and have amassed their fortunes by persevering industry. We have very few rich men who were born rich.

NOTICES OF PUBLICATIONS.

Transactions N. Y. S. Agricultural Society for 1849; by the politeness of B. P. Johnson, Esq., Secretary. — This is a large octavo volume of nearly 1000 pages, well filled with valuable matter, such as the doings of the State Society, abstracts of the transactions of the county societies, essays, communications, reports of discussions, lectures, &c. This work is embellished with beautiful engravings. It reflects great honor upon the state, and is highly creditable to the able secretary, who has superintended the work.

Transactions of the Michigan State Agricultural Society, with Reports of County Agricultural Societies. — This is an interesting work of 234 pages, exhibiting a great degree of intelligence and enterprise, and a rapid progress in the improvement of the commonwealth in its infant state. Will not this commendable example stir up some of the old states to do something? Where is the Massachusetts S. A. Society? Asleep! or in a more hopeless condition.

Transactions of the York (Me.) Agricultural Society for the years 1847, '8, '9; by the politeness of S. L. Goodale, Treasurer. — This society has been in operation only three years, but its Transactions show that it is in a very flourishing condition, as it dispenses liberal and numerous premiums, and is rapidly accumulating a permanent fund. Our worthy friend, and occasional correspondent of the Farmer, Hon. Rufus M'Intire, has presided over this association since its formation.

Night-Side of Nature, or Ghosts and Ghost-Seers, by Catharine Crowe. — This is a collection of materials on remarkable dreams, visions, &c., &c., by an interesting romantic writer, well adapted to the taste of those who delight in the marvellous. Boston: Muzzey & Co., 29 Cornhill.

Oration, by Edward Everett, with a brief account of the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill, at Charlestown, June 17, 1850. — We have not yet read this work, but it claims perusal, from its being the production of one of the first orators of the age.

Hovey's Magazine of Horticulture is an excellent work. At the beginning of the present volume, the price was reduced to $2.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Of Messrs. Hovey, specimens of a new seedling cherry, which is one of the largest and handsomest cherries we ever saw. Our specimens were not fully ripe, yet its quality indicated that it was of a high character. Mr. C. Hovey informed us that it was of excellent quality, and that it ripened as late as the Sweet Montmorency, which is usually the last week in July and the first of August. We think it is a fruit of great promise. It will not be for sale for a few years, until it is more fully tested, and considerably propagated.

From Mr. Theodore Drew, Plymouth, seedling currants, on a branch of the bush. We never saw a greater bearer, and the plant seems remarkably vigorous. The size of the berry is tolerably large, the color darker red than usual, and the flavor seems richer and milder than the common red currant. Mr. D. has not yet propagated it, having only the original bush.

Of Mr. Shed Needham, Danvers, a box of *white* blackberries. These berries are sweeter than the common blackberry, resembling in flavor the mulberry. Mr. N. is so well pleased with this variety, that he is extending its culture.

THE OLD APPLE-TREE.

BY CHARLES H. LEWIS.

The old apple-tree, where in childhood I played,
Round the chair of my grandsire, that sat in its shade;
O, the loved ones that once sat beneath it are gone,
And the old apple-tree is deserted and lone.

But dear to my heart is the old apple-tree;
Its blossoms still nourish the murmuring bee;
The redbreast still rustles its branches among,
And the lark from its top pours his orison song.

The grass is still green on the turf underneath,
The sweet-brier distils there its odorous breath,
The rose and the eglantine still are as fair
And as sweet as in childhood's blest season they were.

O, long may that tree in its verdure be seen,
And long may the turf underneath it be green,
The birds there sing sweetly, and flowers blossom fair,
For the loved ones of childhood are slumbering there.

THE OLIO.

I like the story of the blacksmith, who was requested to bring a suit for slander. He said he could go into his shop and hammer out a better character in six months than all the courts in Christendom could give him.

Give me the money that has been spent in war, and I will purchase every foot of land upon the globe. I will clothe every man, woman, and child, in an attire of which kings and queens might be proud. I will build a school-house upon every hillside and in every valley on the habitable earth.

Education — the twilight that ushers in the glorious sun of liberty.

TERMS. — The New England Farmer is published every other Saturday, making a neat and handsome volume, at the close of the year, of 416 pages, at $1 a year, or five copies for $4, payable in advance. It may be elegantly bound in muslin, embossed and gilt, at 25 cents a volume, if left at this office. As it is stereotyped, back numbers can be furnished to new subscribers.

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